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SCHEDULED TRIBES & SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT MINORITIES & BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 16th February, 2024

No.3604—STSCD-TPR-MISC-0005/2024/SSD.— Whereas, the State Cabinet under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on dated 29th January of 2024 has approved for Constitution of a **“Commission for preservation and promotion of Tribal languages of Scheduled Tribes of Odisha”** with an objective to promote indigenous tribal languages, protecting linguistic diversities, encouraging multi lingual education.

Now, therefore, in order to protect, promote, development, dissemination and safeguarding the Tribal Languages in Odisha, Government in Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Development Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department do hereby notify for the Constitution of Commission for preservation and promotion of Tribal languages of Scheduled Tribes of Odisha. The details of constitution of the Commission and its scope in respect of operation, powers and functions of the Commission are described as below:

1. Name, Constitution, and Operation:

- i. The Commission's name shall be the Commission for Preservation, Promotion of Tribal languages of Scheduled Tribes of Odisha .
- ii. The Commission's area of operation shall cover the entire state of Odisha.
- iii. The Commission shall come into force on the date as notified by the State Government.
- iv. The Headquarters and Central Office of the Commission shall be located in the capital city of Bhubaneswar.

2. Definition:

- i. The term "Commission" refers to the Commission for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Languages of Schedule Tribes of Odisha.
- ii. "Government" refers to the Government of Odisha.
- iii. "Language" means the languages spoken among the Scheduled Tribes of Odisha.

3. Constitution of Commission:

To fulfill the Commission's objectives, the Government shall establish a Commission known as the State Language Commission, specifically the State Language Commission for the Scheduled Tribes of Odisha. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- i. Chairperson: The Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed by the Government from amongst persons who have made significant contributions to tribal language preservation and promotion.
- ii. Vice-Chairperson: The Secretary to the Government in Scheduled Tribes & Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, Government of Odisha, shall be the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.
- iii. Member Convenor: Director, ST shall be the Member Convenor of the Commission.
- iv. The Member Secretary, Academy of Tribal Languages & Culture, shall be the *ex Officio* member of the Commission.
- v. Expert Members: Five domain experts with extensive experience in the field of Tribal Languages & Culture shall be nominated by the Government of Odisha as Expert Members of the Commission.
- vi. Scheduled Tribe Members: A certain number of other members from the major tribal language populations, not exceeding 24, shall be nominated by the Government which will include 33% women.

4. Powers and Functions of the Commission:

- i. The Commission shall have the powers of a Cabinet Minister while performing its functions.
- ii. The advice of the Commission and especially the findings of the Commission concerning the deprivation of any rights of the Scheduled Tribe population related to promoting tribal languages shall ordinarily be binding upon the State Government.

iii. The Commission shall perform the following functions:

- a. Evaluate the progress of the initiatives taken by the State Government for the protection, preservation, propagation, promotion, and dissemination of Tribal Languages of Odisha.
- b. Monitor the working and safeguards provided to the tribes for the development and use of languages in the educational, socio-cultural, and developmental sectors.
- c. Make recommendations for the effective enforcement and implementation of safeguards for the protection of languages of STs.
- d. Investigate specific complaints regarding the deprivation of educational, socio-cultural, and language rights in tribal languages and take up such matters with the appropriate forum.
- e. Recommend to the State Government to take necessary steps to accord necessary status to different tribal languages/dialects.
- f. Undertake case studies on problems arising out of any discrimination against any tribal languages/dialects and recommend measures for their redressal.
- g. Conduct studies, research, and analysis on issues related to educational and socio-cultural intervention in tribal languages/dialects.
- h. Conduct surveys in tribal languages and dialects used among the Scheduled Tribes of Odisha and make suggestions for the up gradation and standardization of tribal languages.
- i. Make an annual report to the State Government on any matter related to the functions of the Commission.

5. Tenure of Nominated Members:

- i. The tenure of the nominated members shall be three years.
- ii. A nominated member shall be disqualified from being chosen as, and for being, a Member of the Commission under the following conditions:
 - a. If they are a lunatic or a person of unsound mind.
 - b. If they have been adjudged insolvent.
 - c. If they have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.
 - d. If they refuse to act or become incapable of acting.

- e. If they are absent from three consecutive meetings of the Commission without obtaining leave of absence.
- f. If, in the opinion of the State Government, they have so abused the position of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Member as to render the continuance in office detrimental to the interests of the tribal language population. However, no person shall be removed under this clause without a reasonable opportunity to be heard in the matter.
- iii. A vacancy caused under sub-section (2) or otherwise shall be filled by fresh nomination.

6. Meetings of the Commission:

- i. The Commission shall meet as necessary, at least once a quarter, at such times and places as the Commission deems fit.
- ii. The Commission shall establish rules to regulate its own procedures.
- iii. All orders and decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the Member-Convenor, or any other officer of the Commission duly authorized by the Member- Convenor.

7. Office Bearers and Expenses:

- i. The State Government, in consultation with the Commission, shall provide the Commission with the necessary officers and other employees on deputation for the efficient performance of its functions.
- ii. The Government may engage the Officers of State Government, Consultants and other support staff to execute the responsibilities of the Commission:
- iii. Salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service for officers and employees of the Commission, except those on deputation, shall be fixed as per prescribed norms.
- iv. The State Government shall provide grants to the Commission, as deemed necessary, for the purposes under the budgetary head of ATLC, following due appropriation by the Scheduled Tribes & Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department.
- v. The Commission shall prepare an annual report for each financial year, detailing its activities in the previous financial year, and forward a copy to the State Government.

- vi. The State Government may make rules for carrying out the provisions.
- vii. Any other matters required or permitted to be prescribed.

By Order of the Governor
ROOPA ROSHAN SAHOO
Commissioner-*cum*- Secretary to Government